

Extended Phase One Habitat Survey (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal)

Version One. 12.08.2024
Tilston War Memorial Hall Car Park

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

The client is proposing the extension of hard standing for car park use to the rear of the Memorial Hall.

1.2 Site location, context and main habitats

The site is located within Tilston, Malpas in a rural environment and enclosed by existing residential and agricultural land uses. The habitat on site comprises of a scattered tree, amenity grassland and building including areas of hard standing access.

1.3 Report purpose

To prepare a Preliminary Ecological Assessment or Extended Phase One Habitat Survey for the development site following CIEEM guidelines (*Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, April 2013*). The purpose of the report is to provide information relating to the location, extent and distribution and impact on the conservation of wild plants and animals and natural and semi natural habitats affected by development. This report sets out the methods, results and recommendations arising from the above work.

1.3.1 Surveyor information

Simon Brain has attained a Post Graduate Certificate in Biological Recording and has attended residential FSC Field Courses for Land mammal, Songbird Barn Owls (CIEEM) and Advanced Bird Survey Techniques. He holds a NE Class 2 bat license (17334-CLS). He has over ten years experience as a practice ecologist and 30 years experience as an arborist.

2. Desk Study

2.1 Methodology

The desk study collated information on designated statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites within 1km search radii around the proposed development site.

Information on statutory and non-statutory designated sites and legally protected/notable species records were obtained from <http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx> and contained in section 2.2 below.

2.2 Designated sites, species and habitats - Results Overview

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (<http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx>) has confirmed no statutory designations apply to the site and the site boundaries.

The site is located within SSSI Impact Zone for River Dee SSSI which is located 3005m east of site. The development proposal does not appear to conform to those development types that require the LPA to consult Natural England on the likely risks.

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside website data has confirmed the following habitats and species apply to the site and its immediate locality:

- There are no section 41 habitats listed on the inventory on the site
- There are numerous areas of listed woodland within the 1km
- The site is within the National Habitat Network All Habitats Combined (England)
- The site is covered by the Arable / Grassland Assemblage Farmland Birds (England)
- There are no important Bird Areas, Seabird considerations, or water and wetland considerations in respect of avian species

- The closest granted European Protected Species (EPS) license application by Natural England was for GCN species approximately 250m from site.

3. Extended Phase One Habitat Survey

3.1 Methodology and survey results

The site was visited in August 2024 and a survey of the site was conducted using the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey 2010. Distinct habitats were identified and any features of nature conservation interest or habitat areas that were too small to map were subject to a more detailed description in a Target Note (T1 etc) and contained in Appendix 1 – Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Mapping and Appendix 2 – Vascular Plant Site List.

3.1.2. Vascular Plants and Habitat

Table 1: Site habitats

Habitat Code	Dominant species	Less frequent species
Amenity grassland	Festuca rubra Taraxacum officinale Trifolium repens	Dactylis glomerata Lolium perenne Poa annua
Building and hard standing	NA	
Scattered tree	Quercus robur	

Target Notes – None taken.

3.1.3 Protected and Notable Species (Mammals)

Water Voles

The habitat on the site does not contain running water habitat suitable for the species.

Bat species

Bats are comprehensively protected under UK and European legislation. Bats are largely ubiquitous there is green infrastructure linking the site to the wider landscape. The site contains sub optimal foraging habitat. No trees or buildings need to be removed for development which could contain bat roosts. A single building is present on site that may have potential for roosting bats but it remains unaffected by proposals.

Badgers and Hedgehog

Badgers are protected under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which prohibits deliberate interference with the animal or its sett. Badger records are present in the LRC data. A standard badger survey was undertaken making checks on site and in the immediate site margins. For example, up to 20m+ from site was checked for signs for field signs of Badger (hair, tracks, prints, dropping or latrines) and no field signs of badger were found. Equally no field signs were found for hedgehog, however suitable foraging habitat does exist due to the presence of trees and grassland and the semi urban nature of the site.

3.1.4 Amphibians

The desktop and field survey exercises indicate no field ponds are located within 500m of the site. We are informed the 2no. ponds to the north of site located less than 50m are purpose built GCN mitigation ponds. There is no aquatic breeding habitat associated with the site itself and sub optimal

foraging, dispersal or hibernating habitat for amphibians to be present on the site as the grass is regularly mown.

3.1.5 Birds

All birds with only minor exceptions are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), as amended. It is also an offence to disturb birds whilst nesting or displaying breeding behaviour, during the breeding season.

Urban birds may use the site such as house sparrow and starling which are birds of conservation concern.

3.1.6 Vascular Plants

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 section 13 1(b) affords some wild flowers protection from uprooting. No other IUCN listed, BAP or other notable plants were identified.

3.1.7 Reptiles

All native reptile species in the UK are protected under law from killing or sale. No habitat exists on the site for these species to be present.

3.2. Constraints to the Surveys

The timing of the site visit was optimal for all species and habitats to be identified within the framework of a Phase 1 survey.

4. Summary and Impact

4.1 Summary – Protected habitats

The surveys have confirmed that the site does not support a habitat protected under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (*NERC*) Act 2006 - Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England. There are no priority hedgerows on the site.

Summary - Protected species

No evidence of protected species was recorded on site.

Summary – Protected sites

There are no statutory or non-statutory designated sites within the boundaries of the development site or within the site margins.

Impact – General

The development proposal seeks to construct new car park hard surfacing and there is a direct loss of amenity grassland for the footprint of the development.

Impact - Species

The full extent of protected species that may reside on this site will require confirmation following further surveys as recommended in section 4.2. The following general impacts are considered to apply:

Bat species. Loss of optimal commuting and foraging. The existing tree and building remain unaffected. No further surveys required.

Badger / hedgehog. Currently no evidence of badger, hedgehog has potential to be present on site.

Water vole. No impact considered likely.

Amphibians. Some loss of sub optimal commuting and foraging habitat.

Birds. Loss of foraging habitat and disturbance during the breeding season.

Vascular Plants. Loss of vascular plant habitat identified on site is a low-level impact and a single non native protected plant was identified

Reptiles. Low-level impact due to site being landlocked and largely inaccessible to reptiles.

4.2 Recommendations for protected species

4.2.1 Mammals

Bat species

No further surveys are needed.

Badgers / hedgehog

No evidence of these species was found but a pre start check shall be made to ensure no badger activity has developed since this walkover survey. Measures are required to incorporate hedgehog into the development plans.

4.2.2 Amphibians

Some loss of sub optimal commuting and foraging habitat will occur. There are GCN mitigation ponds to the north of site less than 50m from site. An amphibian appraisal is needed.

4.2.3 Avian

No further surveys are needed.

4.2.4 Vascular Plants

No other further surveys are required for vascular plants.

4.2.5 Reptiles

No further surveys are required for these species.

5. Recommendations, mitigation, enhancement measures

5.1 Recommendations, mitigation, enhancement measures



Mitigation applies to works required to comply with legislation when developing land where protected species reside, or protected habitats are being lost. Enhancement relates to biodiversity improvements often made under the National Planning Policy Framework.

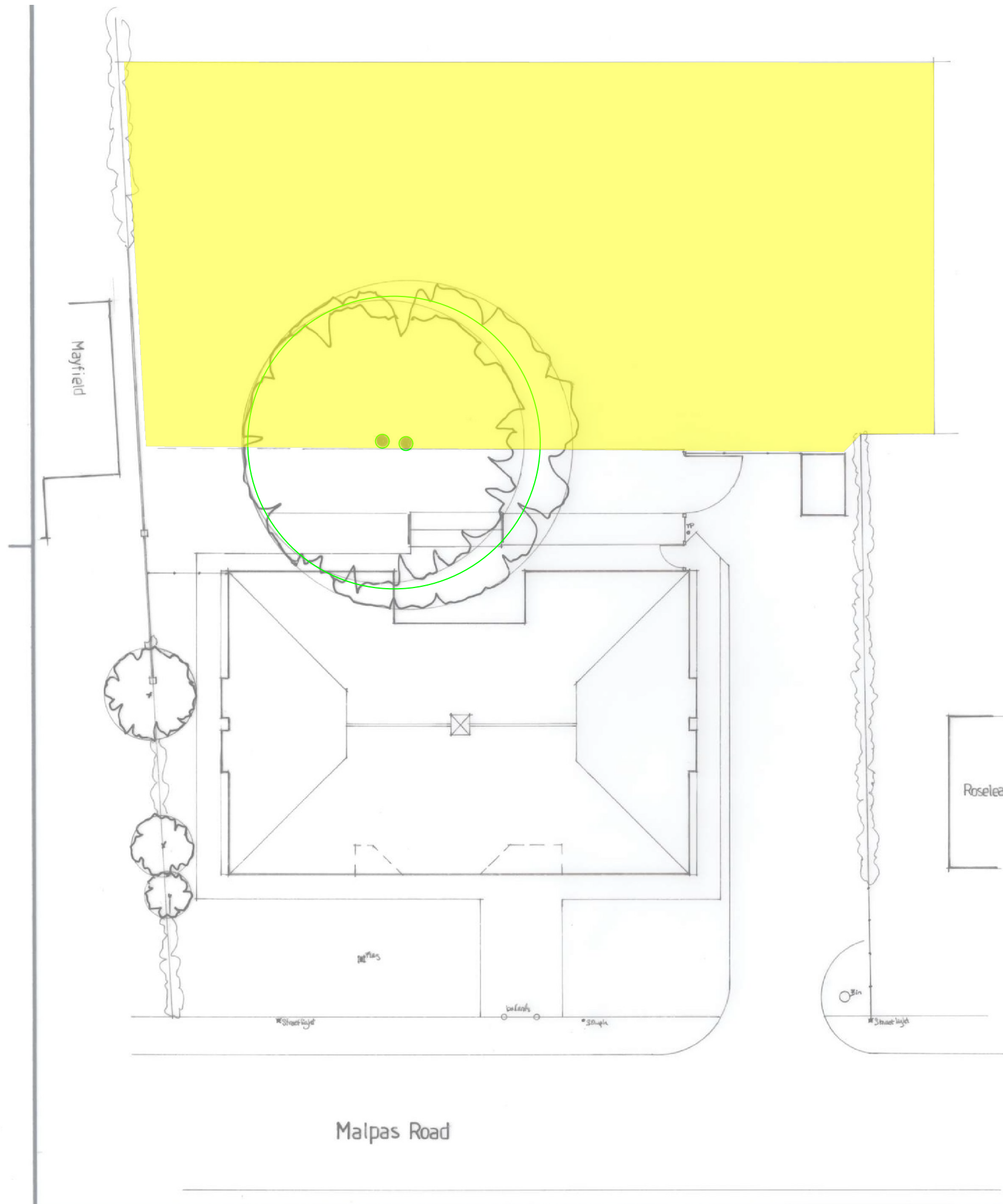
At present there is no evidence of protected species on the site, which could be affected by development. Other protected species that may be present on site include GCN, badgers and hedgehog.

The extent of protected species requires the surveys referred to in section 4.1 and 4.2 to be complete before mitigation can be proposed to support this development. Upon completion of these surveys mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures can be provided and confirmed.

Appendix 1 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map

PHASE ONE HABITAT MAP
KEY

-  A.3.1 Broadleaf scattered trees
-  J.1.2 Amenity grassland



AMENITYTREE
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING CONSULTANTS

Client:
SAK

Project:
Tilston

Detail:
Habitat Plan - Overview

Drawn By: SB Date: 12.08.2024 Scale: 1:250@A3

Drg No: TR-01 Revision: V1

All dimensions to be checked on site & any discrepancies identified and reported to SAKdesign

Appendix 2 Site Vascular plant list

Bellis perennis
Chamerion angustifolium
Convolvulus arvensis
Corylus avellana
Dactylis glomerata
Digitalis purpurea
Epilobium parviflorum
Festuca rubra
Galium aparine
Geranium robertianum
Lolium perenne
Plantago lanceolata
Poa annua
Ranunculus repens
Rubus sp.
Rubus agg.
Quercus robur
Taraxacum officinale
Trifolium repens
Urtica dioica